

area into the sound heart wood, excavating it with longitudinal galleries until only a thin shell of sound wood is left. From the main body of occupied nest they cut lateral openings to the outside, called "windows" by the woodsmen. The topmost window marks approximately the upper limit of damage. The writer makes practical suggestions leading to the conservation of the wood in cutting the poles with respect to this condition and at the same time sufficiently to protect the buyers.

#### DROSOPHILA IN BOTTLED CERTIFIED MILK

Riley (Report State Entomol. Minn. 17, 1918) reports frequent occurrence of the puparium of a species of *Drosophila* on the inside of bottles of certified milk. The occurrence of these objects has been recognized by many of the distributing companies, whose employees referred to them as "hay-seeds." It was concluded that the eggs are laid in unwashed bottles to which the flies are attracted by the souring milk. The larvae are so nearly transparent as to escape notice, and adhere so tightly that they are not removed by washing. They are of course killed and rendered innocuous by the cleansing treatment in any properly managed dairy, where the bottles are treated by a hot, almost boiling, caustic solution. The inability of the author to rear any flies is reasonable evidence of the soundness of this conclusion. Such episodes certainly make apparent the necessity of enforcement of regulation for cleansing of milk bottles, as soon as emptied, by consumers.

#### TROPHYLLAXES: A NUTRITIVE EXCHANGE AMONG ANTS

Wheeler (Proc. Amer. Phil. Soc. 1918, p. 293) in a most suggestive paper offers a suggestion as to one of the possible elements underlying the social life of ants. In certain Ponerine ants the workers turn the larvae on their backs while they are being fed. Fragments of insects are placed on the concave ventral surface. This stimulates the larvae to secrete and discharge a fluid, comprizing blood serum, other nutrient matters and a proteolytic enzyme. The secretion may exude thru the pores of the skin or from special glands. There may be special tubercles or other outgrowths. These materials are licked off by the nurses. This exchange of foods between larvae and workers